

ISLAND COUNTY MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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Minutes

Prepared by Jill Lipoti

September 2, 2025

HYBRID MEETING

PRESENT: Present: **Jill Lipoti**, Chair, **Kelly Webb**, Vice-Chair, **PaulBen McElwain**, **Andi Kopit**, **Ken Collins**, **Scott Chase**, **Greg Easton**, **Patrick Havel**, **Commissioner Melanie Bacon**, **Jeff Wheeler**, **Jennifer Schmitz**

ABSENT: **Elise Adams**, MRC Staff, **Barbara Bennett**, **Kirk Larsen**, **Joshua Berkowitz**.

VISITORS: **Jessica Owens**, NWSC Staff, **Caitlyn Blair**, NWSC Staff, **Carlie Miller**, IC Surface Water Quality

CALL TO ORDER: Jill called the meeting to order at 3:00pm. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Introductions were made. **QUORUM:** A quorum was declared. **AGENDA:** Agenda was altered to include an update from Caitlyn Blair and the Northwest Straits Foundation, and Barbara Bennett's submission of the endorsement draft text for the Deer Lagoon Plan. The agenda was approved. **MINUTES:** A motion to approve the Minutes from June was made by PaulBen McElwain, seconded by Andi Kopit, and approved unanimously. Kelly Webb noted two corrections to the minute prior to approval, and a motion to approve the Minutes from August was made by Scott Chase, seconded by Ken Collins, and approved unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

On June 5th, there was a new MRC application submitted to the Island County clerk. Jen Schmitz and Island County Department of Natural Resources did not receive this email and application until August 19th due to the new MRC Coordinator transition. The new applicant is Brad Thompson of Mutiny Bay and District 1. Per the August meeting discussion regarding the County's DEI consultant and BOCC decision to move from 3-year terms to 1-year terms, the MRC needs to decide how to move forward regarding new applicants.

Island County hopes to have the DEI consultants report by end of year. The MRC has been working to diversity it's membership and include new perspectives from the agricultural community, new community members of District 2 and District 3 as District 1 is well-represented and wants to continue including curious and objective members. There is currently one position open with two current MRC members leaving. MRC would like to invite potential new members to attend monthly MRC meetings. DNR will work to supply potential new members with listed responsibilities and code of conduct of MRC membership. Mr. Thompson reached out to Commissioner Bacon. Andi Kopit motions that Jen Schmitz/MRC Coordinator will respond to new applicant regarding Coordinator transition, MRC membership approval timeline, MRC Application, MRC Annual Expectations, and MRC Bylaws, seconded by Kelly Webb, and approved unanimously.

No report from Commissioner Melanie Bacon.

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Report from Jen Schmitz – MRC Coordinator is working to compile a list of Membership information (District location, expertise, etc.) for MRC to work off moving forward.

Leadership Report from Chair Jill Lipoti – is proud to announce she has completed her circumambulation of Whidbey Island!

Expect to amend bylaws in the New Year. PaulBen has agreed to lead revisiting the MRC bylaws or “rules and procedures.”

DEER LAGOON MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT TEXT:

Deer Lagoon Management Plan endorsement draft text was distributed to the MRC. A motion to approve the endorsement text was made by Ken Collins, seconded by Greg Easton, and approved unanimously.

COORDINATOR’S UPDATES:

- A big thanks to all leads on submitting the first draft of annual reports. Coordinator will reach out with any edits or needs as well as ask for volunteer hours in the following weeks. Volunteer hours are incredibly important in federal reporting and funding, and showing our robust volunteer hours will be crucial in long-term funding!
- Coordinator is working to create an MRC calendar with events, reporting due dates, committee updates, etc. so all MRC members are in the know.

NWSC CONFERENCE:

Back by popular demand is the NWSC Conference Collaborative Networking session which will allow for MRCs to share their project work, talk about collaboration opportunities, and receive feedback and networking opportunities. This year, there will be a lightning round that gives all MRC’s a chance to talk about their projects.

IC MRC would like to participate and will highlight shoreline armoring as the topic. Jen/Jill/Coordinator will work to get information to NWSC by 9/19. A motion to approve was made by Andi Kopit, seconded by Patrick Havel, and approved unanimously.

Conference information including schedule, lodging, and registration information is available at the Northwest Straits Conference website.

NWSC REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE:

New project proposals were submitted, voted upon, and approved by the NWSC. NOAA funding has been authorized, with EPA funding following closely.

MISC UPDATES:

Monthly reports are helpful for NWSC updates and newsletters, reports, and helping to inform about the great work IC MRC is doing!

Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.